GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:627
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
MEDICAL FACILITIES TO EX-SERVICEMEN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of inadequate medical facilities being provided to Ex-servicemen and their families;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received a number of representations from Ex-servicemen league and other Ex-servicemen associations in this regard;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to extend the same medical facilities to pensioners and their family members as are available to other Central Government employees;

(e) the likely time by which the wide disparity in providing medical facilities to ex-servicemen and their families would be removed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 627 FOR 9.5.2002

The Ex-servicemen, their families and families of deceased service personnel drawing pension of any kind are entitled to free out-patient treatment in 127 Military Hospitals (109 Army, 11 Air Force and 7 Navy Hospitals) and over 1000 Medical Inspection Rooms (including 24 MI rooms and 12 dental centres exclusively meant for Ex-servicemen) in terms of provisions of the Regulations for the Medical Services for the Armed Forces 1983 (RMSAF-1983)Ex-servicemen are provided in-patient treatment in Military Hospitals subject to the availability of beds. These facilities can be availed of only by those who live in proximity. Others on the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission may opt to receive a fixed medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month for meeting expenditure on day-to-day medical expenses. The scope of these concessions, however, does not include treatment of cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis, leprosy, mental disease, malignant disease or any other disease for which the treatment is not available from local military sources. In addition to this, financial assistance for specified diseases at specified rates is provided to ex-servicemen and their dependents from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.The Army Group Insurance (AGI) introduced a medical insurance scheme for ex-servicemen/dependents to provide cover for treatment for heart, cancer, renal transplant, hip/knee joint replacement, prostrate surgery etc. in authorized hospitals.

Representations have been received from various ex-servicemen organisations/individuals to provide adequate medicare at par with Central Government civilian pensioners.

A proposal to provide comprehensive medicare to ex-servicemen and their dependents is under active consideration of the Government.